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From: Ashcroft, Tyler
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Ed,

Section 7(a) of H.R. 4558 (GSENM) codifies the boundaries of the the Escalante Canyon National Monument, as depicted on the map that accompanied the Presidential Proclamation. Since designation, we have had the opportunity to review the maps, and have noticed that with very minor modifications to the boundaries we may be able to enhance resource protection or improve manageability in some areas. With your support, I would like to include a statement in the legislative report that allows us to work with the authors of the bill to make very minor corrections, to improve manageability.

In particular, the eastern boundary of the Escalante Canyons Unit, which follows the Wolverine Loop Road, bisects the Wolverine Petrified Wood Natural Environmental Area. In 1960, approximately 2,560 acres (4 sections) that are at the center of the petrified forest area were withdrawn from mineral entry at the request of the State of Utah. While this area remains withdrawn from mineral location, portions that are now outside the monument are available for casual collection petrified wood. This area has long been recognized as an area with important natural resources and recreational values and is a highly visited area. Inclusion of the entire withdrawn area, which has had some form of special management since 1960, would only add approximately 1,000 acres.

Other changes may also be warranted, including removal of isolated parcels on East Clark Bench, which could create issues with manageability.

Please advise.

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